Containing Neelgai menace

†1310. DR. PRABHATHAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in various States of the country are suffering heavy losses of crops because of the 'Roch' animal or 'Neelgai';

(b) whether the number of this species which is called as 'Neelgai' and which is farmer's nightmare and of no use to them, has been increasing simply because the villagers and farmers mistook it for a cow which is considered a sacred animals;

(c) whether 'Neelgai' is considered an animal belonging to the species of dear which is totally different from the species of cow; and

(d) whether on this basis, Government propose to bring any bill or resolution forbidding the use of term 'Neelgai' for 'Roch' animal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. There are reports of damage to crops by Neelgai.

(b)The increase in population of Neelgai may be attributed mainly to conducive habitat and no simply because of religious beliefs.

(c) Yes, Neelgai belongs to the deer family.

(d) No, Sir. No such change in the nomenclature has been considered necessary.

Melting of Himalayan glaciers

1311. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists have warned that glaciers that feed the river Ganges are likely to melt down before the end of this century due to man made carbon dioxide emissions;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.